having irrigation potential of 8.1 lakh ha. is likely to extend to the 10th Plan.

(d) Liberal Central assistance has been extended from time to time for canal and area development works as under:–

	Durino	1990–91 VII plan	1991–92 (Rs. crores)	
I.	For water courses under Centrally sponsored schemes for Command Area Development	45.60	19.99	9.64
II.	For Canal works			
	(a) Advance plan assistance	45.00	—	—
	(b) Drought Relief assistance	20.00	—	—
	(c) Border Area Development Grant	60.70	28. 60	27.80
	Total for canal works	125.70	28.60	27.80

Chambial Commander Are Development Phase–II

3195. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated cost of the Chambal Command Area Development Phase–II projects;

(b) whether the cost has been revised;

(c) if so, the reasons thereof;

(d) when the cost is likely to be revised;

(e) the amount sanctioned by the Union Government for this projects so far; and

(f) the details of progress made in the implementation of that project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA). (a) to (d). The estimated cost of the Chambal Command Area Development Phase–II project, as per 1987 estimate was Rs. 51.90 crores. Government of Rajasthan has recently submitted a revised cost estimate for Rs. 89.57 crore in March, 1992. The revision was required because of the escalation in the rates of various items. The revised estimate is based on 1990-91 rates.

(e) No amount has been sanctioned so far for Chambal Command Area Development Phase–II.

(f) The projects is not yet taken up for implementation.

Scarcity of Tourismrelated Equipment

3196. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a severe scarcity of tourism related equipments in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure the availability of these

equipments in the country?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Tourism related equipment is generally available in the country. However, to meet certain specialised needs, import of equipment is allowed in accordance with policy in this regard.

Regional Steel Consumer Councils

3197. SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the number and places whether Regional Steel Consumer Councils have been set up and have started functioning;

(b) whether there is any proposal to set up more such councils in every State capital; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) No Regional Steel Consumer Councils have been set up by the Government of India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Post and Telegraph Offices in Rural Area

3198. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of post and telegraph offices to be opened in rural areas of the country during the Eighth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the criteria laid down for opening new post and telegraph office in rural areas?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Expansion of postal network in the rural areas of the country is envisaged during the Eighth Five Year plan. It is, however, not feasible to give details in this regard as the Eighth Plan has not been finalised.

As regards the telegraph office, the plan proposal envisages provision of telegraph facility at about 21200 places in rural areas of the country depending upon the feasibility during the Eighth Five Year Plan.

(b) Th criteria laid down by the Department for opening of new post offices in rural areas are given in attached statement.

Presently, telegraph facility in rural areas is provided on phonocom basis using long distance public telephones depending upon the demand and feasibility.

STATEMENT

Criteria/Norms fixed for opening new post offices in rural areas. (effective from 1-4-91)

The followed normal for opening branch post offices effective from 1-4-1991 have been adopted.

(i) *Population:*–

(a) *In rural areas:* 3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO villages)

(b) *In the hilly, tribal desert and Inaccessible area:* 500 population in